

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8199

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T NICOSIA 232

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: GOCYPRUS PRESSURES ON USG

REF: STATE 23944; NICOSIA 225, 224; USUN 3685 OCT 6,
1973 (SECTO 28)

1. WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTY OF DECISION CONCERNING USG
RESPONSE TO SUDDEN GOCYPRUS DEMARCHE CONCERNING MILATT
ATTENDANCE AT TURKISH FIGHTERS' EXERCISE. UPON
RECEIPT OF PROMISED CABLE, WE PLAN TO NOTIFY FOREIGN MINISTER,
MAKING AUTHORIZED DEMARCHE.

2. BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO DRAW TOGETHER PATTERN OF
GOCYPRUS/USG RELATIONS AT PRESENT TIME.

3. RENEWED GOCYPRUS PRESSURES FOR US TO ENDORSE ITS
POSITIONS IS A NATURAL RESULT OF DIMINISHING
CONFIDENCE THAT INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ARE GOING ANYWHERE.
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS TWICE SUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO
CURTAIL FOREIGN PRESENCE AT TURKISH CYPRIOT SPONSORED
AFFAIRS. THEY HAVE ALSO TAKEN SOME LIBERTIES WITH
USG POSITION ON "UNITARY" AND HAVE ATTEMPTED TO FORCE

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OUR HAND INTO AN EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF CYPRIOT

POSITION VS. TURKISH ON VERY HOT "UNITARY/FEDERAL" ISSUE.

4. GOCYPRUS EFFORT IS LEGITIMATE FROM THEIR STANDPOINT, BUT IT POSES PROBLEM FOR US AS TO RELATIVE WEIGHTS WE GIVE TO CYPRUS AND TURKEY RELATIONS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE. FROM PAROCHIAL STANDPOINT, IT WOULD BE EASY FOR US TO GO ALONG WITH CYPRIOT DEMANDS, WHICH IS (AT LEAST WITH REGARD TO CONTACTS WITH TURKISH COMMUNITY) PRECISELY WHAT OTHER MISSIONS ARE DOING. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER USG RESISTANCE TO THIS EFFORT EARNS ENOUGH CREDIT WITH ANKARA TO JUSTIFY COSTS HERE, BUT WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENT TO CHRISTOPHIDES LAST AUTUMN OF IMPORTANT U.S. INTEREST IN TURKEY AND OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO ANTAGONIZE AN ALLY. CYPRUS IS NOT AN ALLY, DOES NOT REALLY HAVE GROUNDS FOR EXPECTING USG SUPPORT IN SUCH CONFRONTATION WITH TURKEY, PARTICULARLY SINCE CYPRUS IS HARDLY FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S ADVICE "TO BE AS MODERATE AS POSSIBLE."

5. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO KEEP PERSONAL RELATIONS ON VERY WARM BASIS, AND OBVIOUSLY WELL AWARE OF IMPORTANCE OF HAVING USG FRIENDSHIP FOR ASSISTANCE IN CASES WHERE WE CAN BE HELPFUL, OR WHERE OUR INTERESTS CONVERGE (E.G., HIS RECENT REQUEST FOR;INFORMAL USG EXPLORATION OF POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING CYPRUS/TURKEY BILATERAL COMMUNICATION, AND HIS REQUEST TO US FOR ASSISTANCE ON POSSIBLE TURKISH RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL).

6. IN BROADER SENSE, FOREIGN MINISTER AND DIRECTOR GENERAL HAVE BOTH MADE CLEAR TO US THEY RECOGNIZE THAT USSR IS HARDLY RELIABLE SUPPORT AND THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY SACRIFICE ITS INTERESTS IN CYPRUS IF IT COULD PROMOTE TENSIONS OR HOSTILITIES BETWEEN ANKARA AND ATHENS. BOTH MEN ARE AWARE OF KEY USG ROLE IN PULLING THEIR CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE IN 1964 AND 1967. THEY KNOW THAT NO OTHER NATION IS LIKELY TO FILL U.S. SHOES, AND THAT IF THEY TURN US OFF IN OVER-ZEALOUS EFFORT TO FORCE OUR HAND INTO SUPPORTING THEIR POSITIONS, THEY MAY LOSE MUCH MORE THAN THEY CAN GAIN.

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7. THIS IS BASIS FOR MY VIEW THAT, AS POLITELY AND QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT USG MAKE CLEAR IT WILL NOT BE DRAWN INTO ANY EFFORT TO SHIFT INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONS TO GOCYPRUS ADVANTAGE, AND THAT GOCYPRUS STOP ATTEMPTING TO MANEUVER US WITH FAITS ACCOMPLIS INTO SUPPORTING ITS POSITIONS. DEPT IS AWARE THAT ASIDE FROM PROBLEM OF TURK CYPRIOT CONTACTS, PRO-GOVT "PHILELEFTHEROS" HAS TRIED THIS TACTIC ON

UNITARY/FEDERAL ISSUE DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO HEAD OFF
PIO (NICOSIA 205). LINE WE RECOMMEND IN THAT TELEGRAM
IS INTENDED TO FORESTALL FURTHER EFFORTS IN THAT
DIRECTION, AND TO WARN GOCYPRUS THAT IF IT TRIES TO FORCE
US INTO PUBLIC POSITIONS, THE POSITIONS MAY NOT BE THOSE
THEY WISH. SIMILARLY, I HOPE THAT INCORPORATION OF
FINAL POINT PARA 11 NICOSIA 225 IN PROPOSED DEMARCHE
TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (WHICH I ASSUME IS AUTHORIZED BY
STATE 23944) WILL DISSUADE GOCYPRUS FROM FURTHER SUDDEN
THREATS TO TREAT ROUTINE EMBASSY ACTIVITIES AS
"UNFRIENDLY ACTS."
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